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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear General Ashcroft:

If the public spends time listening to Microsoft's opponents, we all would be under the impression that this industry icon was the bad guy in this entire case. These same opponents would like us to think that Microsoft got off easy in this settlement. The truth, however, is the very opposite. Since the company's inception, Microsoft has set the standard for innovation and quality. Their products are accessible, easy to use, and affordable. They have been seen as the "bad guy" because they are being blamed for their competitor's inability to innovate and keep up with Microsoft's rapid changes. How fair is that?

As far as Microsoft getting off easy in the case, this is simply not true. Microsoft has basically opened their operation doors to their competitors by allowing them access to Windows interfaces, protocols, and intellectual property. They have even agreed to create future versions of Windows within which non-Microsoft products may function. In addition to all these damaging concessions, Microsoft has also agreed to terms that were not even found unlawful.

I hope that you will make every possible attempt to bring this matter to an early close.

Sincerely,

Frank W. Brown, Jr.